



SALEM FIRE-EMS NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release - May 1, 2015

WATER RESCUE AT ROTARY PARK

The Salem Fire & EMS Department responded to a water rescue at Rotary Park on Electric Road at approximately 3:27 p.m. this afternoon. A group of thirteen people, who were occupying seven boats (6 canoes and 1 kayak), were floating down the Roanoke River when two of the canoes capsized. Three of the four people in those overturned canoes were able to swim to safety, but the other person was trapped in the middle of the river holding onto the underside of a bridge.

That female was safely rescued by the Salem Fire & EMS Swift Water Team in a paddle boat within 35 minutes of the arrival of emergency responders. The first units arrived within six minutes of receiving the call and found the one female in the middle of the Roanoke River.

The Roanoke Fire & EMS Department was contacted and assisted with locating all of the boaters who were in the group. It took approximately one hour to account for every person and ensure that they all were safe. No one was injured during the incident.

Approximately 40 personnel from the Salem Fire & EMS Department and the Roanoke Fire & EMS Department responded to the call

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